TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office

May 5, 1999 LB 683

kind of money at all, and I'm leaning...I will tell you I'm against supporting the amendment, even though I recognize I would be willing to come back, next year, and really do it. But I'm not convinced yet that there is enough of a master plan, so to speak. And with the concurrence of Corrections, which I don't even see Corrections back here, as to where we should be going with this. and location...the reason is I'm very sensitive to location, because when we built the maximum security juvenile youth service in Omaha, probably two years ago, I think, groundbreaking, I don't know how long it took Omaha to arrive at a satisfactory site. It was a NIMBY issue; I guarantee it will be a NIMBY issue this time. This thing could delay and delay. And I think we have to have a well-thought-out plan with a location that is publicly discussed for a long time. My point from that is I think we have time to have a study, start the ball rolling. I'm willing even to do that here without committing any funds, because as I recall that Omaha issue took them well over a year to find the location. They got down to three, and before it was done we were down to absolutely the one and only that was acceptable to the citizens in Omaha. I don't see any change in the attitude towards something like this in very many cities across this state. So I'd like some comment on that area, too.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Well, first of all, I think you hit fundamental issue here, and that is the Department of Corrections doesn't need to be involved in this. This facility that should be run by the juvenile system. And in 1993, in the original plan, the facility was managed and run by the Office of Juvenile Services. On a floor amendment of the last day of the 1997 Session, as it's been explained to me, that was transferred to the Department of Correctional Services. feel very strongly that we need to make this part of the juvenile system. These are kids from the juvenile court. if we're going to build an all new facility, I don't believe the Department of Corrections should be the organization that plans and runs that facility. Senator Chambers and I have been having a com...discussion off the mike on this, and one of the...the issues that we need to make clear here is this is a facility for juveniles in the juvenile court. These are kids with some pretty severe offenses, but they were not tried as adults, and they didn't come through the adult system, and we need to work